[English]

Elementary Education

*80. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since decided to make elementary education for children between the age of six and fourteen a fundamental right;

(b) if so, the steps taken to give effect to the proposal so far;

(c) whether the Government have since received a suggestion to Christen this programme as 'Netaji Anivarya Shiksha Yojana' as a mark of respect to Netaji on his Birth Centenary year;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether India can achieve total literacy by the end of this century; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to make right to free and compulsory education for children from 6 to 14 years a fundamental right and to make it a fundamental duty of parents to provide opportunities for education to children from 6 to 14 years of age has been approved by the Cabinet. A Constitutional Amendment Bill to this effect is likely to be introduced in the Parliament in its current Session.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The Government aims to bring about full literacy by 2005 AD through Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-Formal Education Programme and National Literacy Mission which constitute a three pronged strategy for eradication of illiteracy throughout the country. As of now, 430 districts have been covered under Total Literacy Compaign and 195 districts under Post-Literacy compaign. So far 63.64 million persons have been made literate under all schemes of NLM.

Computer Education

675. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State.

(a) whether the Government are implementing "Computer Literacy Awareness" Programme in schools in various States;

(b) if so, the number of schools covered so far under the programme in Orissa; and

(c) the total number of students benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 117 schools have been covered under the Pre-revised scheme of 'Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools' (CLASS Scheme) in the State of Orissa. Data regarding total number of students benefitted therefrom is not maintained in this Department.

[Translation]

Ground Water level in Gujarat

676. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any scheme from Gujarat Government to raise ground water level in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main objective of this scheme and whether this scheme is likely to be implemented in other States of the country;

(d) whether the Government have mobilised additional financial resources for implementing this scheme; and

(e) the present status of the scheme and the time by which the Union Government are likely to accord approval to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat had sent a project proposal for "augmenting surface water recharge in over exploited aquifers of North Gujarat" at an estimated cost of Rs. 110.65 crores. The project proposal is meant for implementation in North Gujarat only.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Water Resources recommended the project proposal to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) in March, 1996